

IDOE: Making It Happen



Who We Serve

The Commission, comprised of education leaders from across Indiana, reviewed existing education policies, examined extensive quantitative and qualitative data, and engaged with current best practices and research to craft recommendations to systematically address Indiana's teacher shortage which impacts administrators, teachers, students and their school communities alike.

Our Partners

The IDOE engaged the Great Lakes Comprehensive Center (GLCC) and the Center on Great Teachers and Leaders (GTL Center) to partner as content developers and facilitators of each Blue Ribbon Commission meeting. These federally-funded centers provided national perspectives and research to support the root cause analysis and strategy development.

Made It Happen in 2015

- Convened six stakeholder meetings to determine root causes of the teacher shortage and propose strategies to support recruitment and retention
- Administered the National Board Certification Grant to support teacher candidates in attaining the certification and teacher leaders in mentoring candidates

Made It Happen in 2016

- Proposed House Bill 1339 to move Commission recommendations through the legislature
- Designated a full-time staff member to lead recruitment and retention efforts
- Collaborated with Indiana University to establish the Indiana Center on Teacher Quality through the federally funded \$5M State Personnel Development Grant to improve the recruitment, support, and retention of teachers of students with disabilities
- Created the DOE Dialogue "Teacher's Edition" monthly newsletter to increase direct communication to teachers regarding professional learning opportunities
- Presented the Commission's work at the National Association of State Teacher Education Coordinators annual conference
- Titled 2016 Teacher of the Year, Jean Russell, as Teacher Ambassador to promote the teaching profession
- Organized summit for educator preparation program and teacher leaders to share current practices and further develop recruitment and retention initiatives



Updates since the Blue Ribbon Commission

During the 2016 Session of the Indiana General Assembly, HB 1339, a bi-partisan bill that championed the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission passed out of the House Education Committee on an 11-1 vote. The bill, however, was recommitted to the House Committee on Ways and Means and never received a hearing.